

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In the Claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A steel intaglio printing plate comprising:

a printing plate surface having at least one first area with steel intaglio structures and at least one second area with embossing structures,

wherein a height or lateral structural size of the embossing structures is of an order of magnitude in the range of 5 to 100 microns, or, the height or lateral structural size of the embossing structures is of an order of magnitude of less than 1 micron such that a diffractive relief structure can be embossed therewith, and

wherein parts of the embossing structures closest to the printing plate surface are located 20 microns to 100 microns below the printing plate surface.
2. (Withdrawn) A mold (Z) for producing steel intaglio printing plates (8) according to claim 1 comprising at least one first segment (M) having negative steel intaglio structures (10') and at least one second segment (DD) different from the first segment (M) and having negative embossed structures (11'), wherein the mold (Z) has a molding plane (9') and wherein the parts of the negative embossed structures (11') closest to the molding plane (9') are located 20 microns to 100 microns above the molding plane (9').
3. (Withdrawn) A mold (Z) for producing steel intaglio printing plates (8) according to claim 1 comprising at least one segment (M) having negative steel intaglio structures (10') and negative embossed structures (11'), wherein the mold (Z) has a molding plane (9') and wherein the parts of the negative embossed structures (11') closest to the molding plane (9') are located 20 microns to 100 microns above the molding plane (9').
4. (Withdrawn) An original printing plate for producing a mold according to claim 3 having steel intaglio structures (10) and at least one gap (13) into which an embossing die (D)

with embossed structures (11) is so inserted that the parts of the embossed structures (11) closest to the surface of the original printing plate (O) are located 20 microns to 100 microns below said surface.

5-8. (Canceled).

9. (Previously presented) The plate according to claim 1, wherein parts of the embossing structures closest to the printing plate surface, or a molding plane, are located at least 40 microns away from the printing plate surface or molding plane, respectively.

10. (Previously presented) The plate according to claim 1, wherein parts of the embossing structures closest to the printing plate surface, or a molding plane, are located at most 60 microns away from the printing plate surface or molding plane, respectively.

11. (Currently Amended) The plate according to claim 1, wherein the second area with embossing structures has an area size of less than 400 square millimeters, ~~preferably less than 100 square millimeters.~~

12. (Previously presented) The plate according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of second areas with embossing structures constitute an embossing structure grid.

13. (Previously presented) The plate according to claim 1, wherein the second area with embossing structures is separated from the first area with steel intaglio structures, or from another second area with embossing structures, by a separation bar extending as far as the printing plate surface or a molding plane, the separation bar having a width of at least 0.5 millimeters.

14. (Withdrawn) A method for producing an object according to claim 1 comprising the following steps:

- producing a steel intaglio structure (10) in an original printing plate (O) and producing at least one matrix (M) from the original printing plate (O),
- producing an embossing die (D) with embossed structures (11) and producing at least one embossing die duplicate (DD),

- producing a mold (Z) with a molding plane (9') by disposing side by side and connecting one or more matrices (M, M1, M2, ...) and one or more embossing die duplicates (DD, DD1, DD2, ...) so that the parts of the embossed structures closest to the molding plane are located 20 microns to 100 microns above the molding plane (9').

15. (Withdrawn) A method for producing an object according to claim 1 comprising the following steps:

- producing steel intaglio structures (10) in an original printing plate (O),
- producing at least one gap in the surface of the original printing plate (O) having the steel intaglio structures (10),
- producing an embossing die (D) with embossed structures (11),
- inserting the embossing die (D) into the gap (13) such that the parts of the embossed structures (11) closest to the surface of the original printing plate (O) are located 20 microns to 100 microns below said surface.

16. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 15, wherein a plurality of matrices (M1, M2, ...) are embossed from the original printing plate (O) with the embossing die (D) inserted into the gap (13), said matrices being disposed side by side and connected to constitute a mold (Z).

17. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 14, wherein a steel intaglio printing plate (8) is molded from the mold (Z).

18. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 17, wherein the molding of the steel intaglio printing plate (8) from the mold (Z) is effected by galvanoplasty.

19. (Previously presented) A method for producing a steel intaglio printing plate, comprising:

- producing steel intaglio structures in a steel intaglio printing plate,
- producing embossing structures in the steel intaglio printing plate by engraving such that:

parts of the embossing structures closest to a surface of the steel intaglio printing plate are located 20 to 100 microns below said surface, and

a height or lateral structural size of the embossing structures is of an order of magnitude in the range of 5 to 100 microns, or,

the height or lateral structural size of the embossing structures is of an order of magnitude of less than 1 micron such that a diffractive relief structure can be embossed therewith.

20. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 14, wherein the embossed structures (11) are of an order of magnitude of ≤ 100 microns.

21. (Withdrawn) A method for producing a security document by steel intaglio printing using a steel intaglio printing plate according to claim 1 comprising the steps of:

- filling the steel intaglio structures (10) of the steel intaglio printing plate (8) with ink without filling the embossed structures (11) with ink,
- printing a security document by means of the steel intaglio printing plate (8) partially filled with ink and embossing the embossed structures in a printing operation while applying a pressure that suffices for transferring the ink from the steel intaglio structures (10) to the security document, on the one hand, and embossing the security document in the area of the embossed structures (11), on the other hand.

22. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 21, wherein the embossing of the security document in the area of the embossed structures (11) is a blind embossing.

23. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 21, wherein the security document has an emboss-able coating (5, 6) and wherein the embossing of the security document is effected in the area of said embossable coating such that diffractive relief structures are embossed into the embossable coating.

24. (Withdrawn) A method according to claim 23, wherein the embossed coating is covered with a transparent protective layer (7).

25. (Withdrawn) A security document having a steel intaglio printed image and a microstructure embossing produced with an intaglio printing plate according to claim 1.

26. (New) The plate according to claim 11, wherein the second area with embossing structures has an area size of less than 100 square millimeters.